

Town of Hopkinton, NH

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Recycling Committee Minutes 10/03/06

October 3, 2006

Recycling Committee Minutes

Present: Debbie Augustine, Steve Clough, Katherine Mitchell, Lynne Hardy, Michelle Wheeler, Chris Lawless, Nancy Jackson Reno, Liane Kerbyson, Will Merrow

Selectman representative: Don Lane

The meeting opened at 6:30 and the minutes were approved.

Don Lane reported that the Hopkinton BOS met with the Webster BOS and determined that communication must be maintained. It was suggested it would be helpful to have a member of the Webster board as a liaison to keep the communication open between the recycling committee and the Webster BOS. Kelly Clark was mentioned as a possibility of a Webster representative to serve on the recycling committee.

Next we discussed the need for improvement of trash and recycling disposal signage at the post office. The signs will be made by the Students for the Environment at Hopkinton High School. They will also be making new signs to be placed at the transfer station.

An email was sent to all REACH members to encourage recycling. Debbie has been sending REACH members information about recycling as articles and events as they have come up.

A discussion of the possibility of establishing a pilot program of a satellite site for recyclable items took place. The committee was reminded that this did exist before and it did not work. The satellite containers would have to be manned to prevent people from disposing trash and unwanted items. Steve suggested that a promotional trailer could be set up for a period of time to spread the word, but it would have to be manned as well.

More discussion about the pros and cons of PAYT versus curbside pick up. There are many obstacles to PAYT, but the option of curbside is not possible at this time due to the expense to tax payers. We spent time determining how the trash haulers would be charged, weight versus requiring their customers to use the PAYT bags. Steve recommends the haulers be charged by weight instead of number of bags. Also a discussion of increasing the rates charged to haulers to encourage them to recycle was discussed. A suggestion of inviting the haulers in to a meeting was made to help keep the communication open, as well as determine the best option for both. More discussion is needed on this topic.

Next discussion about how the transfer station would handle the possibility of Webster not participating in PAYT. Options include handing out bags that would have to be used by Webster residents. Don Lane stated that if Webster didn't opt for PAYT it would not prevent Hopkinton from participating.

There are considerable needs for formulating specific fees if PAYT is adopted. For instance, if a person is cleaning out a barn and has a considerable amount of trash to dispose of. Steve suggested before there is a forum educating the public, the committee brainstorms on how to handle many different possibilities of trash disposal and what fees need to be installed for the different situations.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynne Hardy

